



User-life of ICS/LABA inhaler devices should be considered when prescribed as relievers

Roy A. Pleasants¹, Stephen L. Tilley¹, Anthony J. Hickey^{2,3} and Omar S. Usmani⁴

Affiliations: ¹University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Division of Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC, USA. ²RTI International, Engineered Systems, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA. ³University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Eshelman School of Pharmacy, Chapel Hill, NC, USA. ⁴Imperial College London and Royal Brompton Hospital, National Heart and Lung Institute, London, UK.

Correspondence: Roy A. Pleasants, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Division of Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care Medicine, 7202 Marsico Hall, 125 Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27599 USA. E-mail: roy.pleasants@unchealth.unc.edu

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Prescribers and asthma patients should know that ICS/LABA combination inhalers used as reliever therapy may expire under patient use sooner than the expiration shown on the inhaler, compromising effectiveness if not considered by the prescriber and patient <https://bit.ly/3fhHMX2>

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To the Editor:

Inhaled corticosteroid/formoterol (ICS/FOR) combination medications were initially developed as maintenance therapy; more recently they are also used as relievers in Europe and this use is proposed in the USA. ICS coupled with FOR (a long-acting β_2 -agonist) is recommended by the 2020 Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) guidelines [1] for steps 2–5 as maintenance and reliever (SMART) and is recommended for steps 3 and 4 in the 2020 USA National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) [2]. While SMART has regulatory approval in Europe, it does not in the USA.